

Juduser

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To: JudTestimony
Subject: vote NO SB16

• Connecticut is one of the most restrictive and regulated states for gun ownership. o Additional restrictions and burdens on law abiding citizens is not rational. • Creation of "gun-free" zones on buses, trains, and ferries o This discriminates against and disproportionately impacts lower-income citizens and minorities, who are more likely to use public transportation. o Has there been a history of gun violence on buses, trains and ferries in Connecticut? • Allows police to demand to see your license if they observe that you are carrying a pistol or revolver o Creates Fourth Amendment concerns as it does not require reasonable suspicion of a crime, as well as concerns that it may lead to discrimination and profiling. • Restricts the carrying of a firearm if it is shown or visible knowingly within 250 feet of a demonstration o Presents First Amendment concerns also relating to free speech, association. o A demonstration is loosely defined to mean fifteen or more people in attendance, including at a sidewalk, park, or restaurant. o Open carry is legal in CT, but this could make it a crime in nearly any public place. • Requires the registration of firearms that do not have serial numbers o This is likely unenforceable, and would create additional burdens on law-abiding gun owners while having no impact on those who do not follow the law. o "Ghost guns" is a biased and politically charged term. • Revises the "assault weapons" ban to include "others" o No evidence linking these firearms to higher rates of crime or common usage in crimes. o Restricts law-abiding gun owners based on cosmetic features. o "Assault weapon" is a biased and ambiguous political term that covers hundreds of types of firearms. • "AR" does not mean "assault rifle". It means "ArmaLite" which is a company that originally designed their style of rifle in the 1950s 1 of 2 • Bans "pre-ban" (1994) semi-auto rifles o Similar to "others," imposes unreasonable restrictions on law-abiding gun owners who have complied with all previous regulations, and without any supporting evidence to do so. • Puts numerous additional restrictions and burdens on law-abiding gun owners, while not enforcing the current laws against criminals o According to CCDL, roughly 70% of gun offenses in CT are not prosecuted to the fullest extent with the law, with the "overwhelming majority" committed by prohibited persons who cannot lawfully possess a firearm. The governor has spoken of his abhorrence for all firearms in the state, and the bill is unreasonably punitive to law-abiding citizens while creating measures that lead to discrimination and are nearly impossible to enforce on criminals. CT gun sales increased over 33% in 2020 alone, with a 50% increase in the number of new permits issued. The National Shooting Sports Foundation found that in the first quarter of 2020, 40% of gun buyers were first-time buyers, and 40% of new buyers were female. It is evident that this bill is not reflective of the growing positive public sentiment towards firearms in the state.